



What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds

By Gordon Mathews

Download now

Read Online ➔

What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds By Gordon Mathews

Here is an original and provocative anthropological approach to the fundamental philosophical question of what makes life worth living. Gordon Mathews considers this perennial issue by examining nine pairs of similarly situated individuals in the United States and Japan. In the course of exploring how people from these two cultures find meaning in their daily lives, he illuminates a vast and intriguing range of ideas about work and love, religion, creativity, and self-realization.

Mathews explores these topics by means of the Japanese term *ikigai*, "that which most makes one's life seem worth living." American English has no equivalent, but *ikigai* applies not only to Japanese lives but to American lives as well. *Ikigai* is what, day after day and year after year, each of us most essentially lives for.

Through the life stories of those he interviews, Mathews analyzes the ways Japanese and American lives have been affected by social roles and cultural vocabularies. As we approach the end of the century, the author's investigation into how the inhabitants of the world's two largest economic superpowers make sense of their lives brings a vital new understanding to our skeptical age.

 [Download What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Am ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and ...pdf](#)

What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds

By Gordon Mathews

What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds By Gordon Mathews

Here is an original and provocative anthropological approach to the fundamental philosophical question of what makes life worth living. Gordon Mathews considers this perennial issue by examining nine pairs of similarly situated individuals in the United States and Japan. In the course of exploring how people from these two cultures find meaning in their daily lives, he illuminates a vast and intriguing range of ideas about work and love, religion, creativity, and self-realization.

Mathews explores these topics by means of the Japanese term *ikigai*, "that which most makes one's life seem worth living." American English has no equivalent, but *ikigai* applies not only to Japanese lives but to American lives as well. *Ikigai* is what, day after day and year after year, each of us most essentially lives for.

Through the life stories of those he interviews, Mathews analyzes the ways Japanese and American lives have been affected by social roles and cultural vocabularies. As we approach the end of the century, the author's investigation into how the inhabitants of the world's two largest economic superpowers make sense of their lives brings a vital new understanding to our skeptical age.

What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds By Gordon Mathews Bibliography

- Rank: #514855 in eBooks
- Published on: 1996-04-05
- Released on: 1996-04-05
- Format: Kindle eBook

 [Download What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Am ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds By Gordon Mathews

Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

"A unique and provocative contribution to the fundamental question of what makes life worth living. Mathews works creatively with the similarities and differences in the United States and Japan to shed light on cultural values in the two societies."—John L. Caughey, author of *Imaginary Social Worlds*

"Amidst trade wars, when Japanese workers are made into robots and trade negotiators into modern-day samurai, one longs for a sense of what Japanese humans are like. Gordon Mathews provides the answer. . . . His work is penetrating and rings true."—Ezra F. Vogel, author of *Japan as Number One*

"An extraordinary book. Mathews's analysis of each pair of narratives is clear, delightful, and satisfying."—Takie Sugiyama Lebra, author of *Above the Clouds: Status Culture of the Modern Japanese Nobility*

From the Back Cover

"A unique and provocative contribution to the fundamental question of what makes life worth living. Mathews works creatively with the similarities and differences in the United States and Japan to shed light on cultural values in the two societies."--John L. Caughey, author of "Imaginary Social Worlds

"Amidst trade wars, when Japanese workers are made into robots and trade negotiators into modern-day samurai, one longs for a sense of what Japanese humans are like. Gordon Mathews provides the answer. . . . His work is penetrating and rings true."--Ezra F. Vogel, author of "Japan as Number One

"An extraordinary book. Mathews's analysis of each pair of narratives is clear, delightful, and satisfying."--Takie Sugiyama Lebra, author of "Above the Clouds: Status Culture of the Modern Japanese Nobility

About the Author

Gordon Mathews is Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Georgetta Watson:

The book What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. Exactly why must we leave a very important thing like a book What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds? Some of you have a different opinion about reserve. But one aim which book can give many details for us. It is absolutely correct. Right now, try to closer with your book. Knowledge or facts that you take for that, you may give for each other; you can share all of these. Book What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds has simple shape but you know: it has great and big function for you. You can look the enormous world by open up and read a publication. So it is very wonderful.

Herbert Haubrich:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? May be reading a book might be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the e-book untitled What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds can be fine book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Claude Gonzalez:

Don't be worry in case you are afraid that this book will filled the space in your house, you may have it in e-book approach, more simple and reachable. This particular What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds can give you a lot of friends because by you checking out this one book you have point that they don't and make you more like an interesting person. This kind of book can be one of one step for you to get success. This e-book offer you information that might be your friend doesn't understand, by knowing more than some other make you to be great folks. So , why hesitate? Let me have What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds.

Jonathan Ouzts:

As we know that book is vital thing to add our know-how for everything. By a e-book we can know everything you want. A book is a pair of written, printed, illustrated or even blank sheet. Every year ended up being exactly added. This guide What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds was filled regarding science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your science competence. Some people has distinct feel when they reading the book. If you know how big advantage of a book, you can really feel enjoy to read a reserve. In the modern era like at this point, many ways to get book you wanted.

Download and Read Online What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds By Gordon Mathews #QKGR0V6HWS8

Read What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds By Gordon Mathews for online ebook

What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds By Gordon Mathews Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds By Gordon Mathews books to read online.

Online What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds By Gordon Mathews ebook PDF download

What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds By Gordon Mathews Doc

What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds By Gordon Mathews Mobipocket

What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds By Gordon Mathews EPub

QKGR0V6HWS8: What Makes Life Worth Living?: How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds By Gordon Mathews